

the respective computation specification for controlling the adjusting unit that is operated by an electric motor (cf column 3, lines 28 to 68).

As distinguished from the above, claim 8 requires, in addition to other features, that an evaluation of the gradient of the temperature curve detected by means of the temperature sensor is additionally carried out, so that the flow-through can be determined, whereby the trailing of the setting element is shut off as soon as and as long as the gradient of the temperature curve is falling short of a threshold value that can be preset.

No indications or suggestions pointing in particular in the direction of said features are contained anywhere in DE 40 26 110 A1.

DE 44 01 637 A1

Differences vis-à-vis claim 1

In DE 44 01 637 A1, the sanitary mixing fitting comprises a body 1 of the fitting with its inlet 2 for cold water, and an inlet 3 for hot water. An outlet 4 is feeding out of the housing for discharging the mixed water. A thermostat of the commonly used type is arranged in the body 1 of the fitting. With the help of an expanding element, this thermostat controls the mixing ratio between hot and cold water. For adjusting the nominal value, provision is made for a

rotating spindle that is driven via a motor/transmission unit 5. The latter drives the rotary spindle 20, which engages a short pipe. The expanding element 21 is mounted on that pipe socket; a control plunger 22 is secured on the other side of said expanding element. This control plunger is arranged in such a manner that, in FIG. 3, it can be displaced linearly from the right to the left. Depending on its position of displacement, the control plunger 22 opens or closes the cold water inlet 2 and/or the hot water inlet 3 to a lesser or greater extent. Whereas a nominal value is preset with the help of the electric motor, the temperature then to be maintained is actually controlled by the expanding element 21. The body 1 of the fitting is connected with the display and control unit with the help of driving and controlling lines not shown in any detail (cf column 4, lines 14 to 55).

As distinguished from the above, claim 1 requires, in addition to other features, that the electronic controller unit and the mechanical adjusting element are arranged in one single, compact device unit that is suitable for installation under the plaster, whereby the adjusting element is acting on a rotatably supported setting body, so that a mixture of the hot and cold water that corresponds with the rotational position of said body can be prepared and within a mixing body and supplied via a hot water feed and a cold water feed.

No clues or suggestions pointing in particular in the direction of said features can be found anywhere in DE 44 01 637 A1.

Differences vis-à-vis claim 8

If, in conjunction with DE 44 01 637 A1, the temperature set by the user with the help of the input keys 8, 9 deviates from the actual temperature, the latter being determined by the temperature sensor, the electric motor adjusts the thermostat, setting it to a position that corresponds with the desired temperature. This position, or the temperature associated therewith in filed in the control unit in the form of a curve (cf column 5, lines 7 to 17).

As distinguished from the above, it is required in claim 8 that, in addition to other features, the gradient of the temperature curve determined by means of the temperature sensor is additionally evaluated, so that the flow-through can be detected, whereby the trailing of the setting element is shut off as soon as and as long as the gradient of the temperature curve is falling short of a threshold value that can be pre-adjusted.

Any indications or clues pointing in the direction of these features cannot be found anywhere in DE 44 01 637 A1.